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**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
SOUTHERN DIVISION**

MICHAEL LE BEAU, PHILLIS LE BEAU, and DAVID GRIESEMER, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated,

Case No.

CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

KIA AMERICA, INC.

Defendant

KIA AMERICA, INC.,
Defendant

1 Plaintiffs Michael Le Beau, Phyllis Le Beau, and David Griesemer
2 (collectively, “Plaintiffs”), by and through their attorneys, file this action on behalf
3 of themselves and all others similarly situated against Defendant Kia America, Inc.
4 (“Defendant” or “Kia”), and allege as follows:

5 **NATURE OF THE ACTION**

6 1. Plaintiffs bring this action individually, and on behalf of a nationwide
7 class and classes for the states of Louisiana and South Carolina (more fully defined
8 below), for the benefit and protection of purchasers and lessees of Kia’s model year
9 2016 and 2017 Optima and 2017 Sportage vehicles (together, the “Vehicle(s)” or
10 “Class Vehicle(s)”).

11 2. As alleged herein, the Class Vehicles are defective and unsafe. The
12 Vehicles are equipped with a dangerous and defective power window system that
13 results in power window regulator failure that causes the Vehicles’ automatic
14 windows to malfunction, function intermittently, or become non-operational. This
15 poses a significant safety hazard to drivers and occupants of Class Vehicles.

16 3. Window regulator failure presents a safety issue because windows
17 protect against occupant ejection during a crash. Side windows are also critical to
18 the proper operation of side airbags. Furthermore, an open window presents an
19 emergency egress in the event of an accident or when drivers and passengers are
20 otherwise unable to exit through vehicle doors, e.g., in the event of a crash that leaves
21 the doors inoperable. When a Vehicle is parked in certain climates, inoperable
22 windows can expose drivers and occupants to unsafe interior temperatures
23 (exceeding 110 degrees Fahrenheit) that can impair the safe operation of the Vehicle.
24 Inoperable open windows increase the risk of theft.

25 4. The defect is the result of both the power window system being
26 comprised of inadequate materials and improper workmanship in the production of
27 the window system and window regulator such that normal operation of the

1 automatic windows causes the window regulator to break and otherwise fail (the
2 “Defect”).

3 5. Kia has identified the root cause of the Defect, including through
4 internal documents and reports addressing the window regulator failure in the Class
5 Vehicles. The Defect results from a window regulator drum gear separating and/or
6 breaking in the Vehicles.

7 6. Kia is and has been well aware of the Defect. Consumers presenting
8 Class Vehicles for a Defect-related repair are informed that Kia knows about the
9 issue. Nevertheless, when owners and lessees of the Class Vehicles seek a repair for
10 the Defect, they routinely are told there is no recall or fix, and they are forced to pay
11 for this safety-related repair at their own expense. Obtaining an attempted repair for
12 the Defect is not cheap. Class members report paying hundreds of dollars to obtain
13 a repair for one window, and often are forced to pay for multiple window regulator
14 failures at the same time or in close proximity.

15 7. Prior to selling the Vehicles, Kia knew that the power window systems
16 were defective, yet omitted and kept this material fact from Plaintiffs and other class
17 members. Rigorous pre-release testing of the windows, including testing that
18 replicates actual consumer use of the windows, made Kia aware of the Defect.

19 8. Kia has also issued technical service bulletins (“TSB”) that appear to
20 be directly related to the Defect. The Defect is also widely discussed and complained
21 about, including on message boards devoted to the Kia Optima and Kia Sportage
22 and in complaints made directly to the National Highway Traffic Safety
23 Administration (NHTSA), all of which Kia reviews and is aware of. Nevertheless,
24 Kia has failed to recall the Vehicles, has not successfully remedied the Defect, has
25 not made owners and lessees of the Class Vehicles whole, and has not made the
26 Class Vehicles safe.

9. The defective power window systems included in the Class Vehicles did not perform as warranted, and Kia omitted information about the Defect.

10. As a result of Kia's misconduct, Plaintiffs and class members were each injured on account of receiving Vehicles that were fundamentally different from what they believed they were purchasing, and less valuable than was represented.

11. In manufacturing, marketing, and selling and/or leasing these unsafe Vehicles, Kia has engaged in unfair, deceptive, and misleading consumer practices, and has breached warranties with the Vehicles' purchasers and lessees, including Plaintiffs.

12. As a result of the Defect, Plaintiffs and class members are unable to utilize their Vehicles in a safe manner, and have incurred damages.

13. The Defect presents a safety concern, and though numerous consumers have complained about it, Kia has failed to adequately address the Defect.

14. Plaintiffs bring this action to obtain redress for those who have purchased or leased the Vehicles across the United States. Plaintiffs seek remedies for Kia's breaches of implied warranties, fraud, unjust enrichment, violations of state consumer protection laws, and seek declaratory and injunctive relief to prevent Kia's continued misconduct.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

15. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. § 1332(d)(2)(A) because the claims relating to the matter in controversy exceed \$5 million, exclusive of interest and costs, the proposed classes have at least 100 members, and this is a class action in which certain of the class members (including Plaintiffs) and Defendant are citizens of different states.

16. Venue is proper in this judicial District under 28 U.S.C. § 1391 because Kia is headquartered in this judicial District, Kia conducts significant business

1 throughout this District, and a substantial part of the acts and omissions giving rise
2 to Plaintiffs' claims occurred in, or emanated from, this District.

3 17. At all pertinent times, Kia was engaged in the marketing,
4 advertisement, sale, and lease of the Class Vehicles, which are the subject of this
5 lawsuit, in this District and throughout the United States.

PARTIES

Plaintiffs Michael and Phyllis Le Beau

8 18. Plaintiffs Michael and Phillis Le Beau are adult individuals who reside
9 in and are citizens of Slidell, Louisiana. On or about March 28, 2016, the Le Beau
10 Plaintiffs jointly purchased a new 2017 Kia Sportage at Lakeshore Kia, an
11 authorized Kia dealership located in Slidell, Louisiana. The Le Beaus use the Class
12 Vehicle for family and household use. Ms. Le Beau is the primary user of the
13 Vehicle.

14 19. In or about mid-August 2021, the Le Beaus began experiencing the
15 Defect, and their front passenger automatic window failed. The Le Beaus called
16 Lakeshore Kia, and a service manager at the dealership told them to pull the window
17 up with their hands and put shims into the window to hold it tight so the window
18 would not fall until they could get an appointment with the dealership. The
19 appointment was set for late September 2021, nearly 6 weeks after the window
20 failed. Because they could not wait that long, the Le Beaus scheduled an appointment
21 with All Star Kia in Denham Springs, Louisiana, another authorized dealership that
22 was approximately 70 miles away. That appointment was set for August 12, 2021.

23 20. During the appointment with All Star, the technician had to order the
24 parts for the repair, which All Star said was on backorder. The part came in August
25 25, 2021, and on the same day, the Le Beau's took their Vehicle back to All Star to
26 get a repair. The repair cost was \$551.89, which included parts and labor.

1 21. On or about September 7, 2021, the front driver window failed due to
2 the Defect. Plaintiffs put shims in the window this time as well, and because they
3 never canceled their late September appointment at the Lakeshore Kia dealership,
4 they presented their Vehicle to Lakeshore on September 28, 2021. During this
5 appointment, Lakeshore had the parts for repair on hand, and was able to perform a
6 repair. The Le Beaus again had to pay out of pocket for the repair, which cost them
7 \$560.98 inclusive of labor and costs.

8 22. Then, in or about early November 2021, the Le Beau's Vehicle suffered
9 the Defect again, when both backseat side windows failed. The Le Beau Plaintiffs
10 made yet another appointment with Lakeshore Kia, and presented the Vehicle for a
11 repair on November 9, 2021. Once again, the Le Beau's had to incur the cost of the
12 window repairs, which was \$826.54 to fix the two back windows. During this
13 appointment, when Mr. Le Beau raised the fact that this issue has happened to all
14 four windows within a few months, the service technician denied there was an issue
15 and blamed the regional weather.

16 23. In total, the Le Beau Plaintiffs have incurred nearly \$2,000 out of
17 pocket to pay for repairs relating to the window Defect in their Sportage.

18 24. While Kia's dealership temporarily eliminated the Defect at the Le
19 Beau Plaintiffs' cost, Kia has failed to permanently repair or otherwise correct the
20 Defect in the vehicle in order to permit them to safely continue driving it without the
21 risk of the power windows failing again.

22 25. The Le Beau Plaintiffs anticipate that they will soon experience the
23 window regulator Defect and resultant power window failure as they continue to use
24 the Class Vehicle.

25 26. The Le Beau Plaintiffs have sustained out of pocket damages, have lost
26 time associated with getting the Vehicle repaired, and lost use of their Vehicle during
27 the time it was being repaired, all as a result of the Defect.

1 27. Because of the Defect, and Kia's inability or refusal to permanently
2 remedy the issue, the Le Beaus continue to be exposed to a safety risk associated
3 with window regulator failure in their Class Vehicle.

4 28. At the time of purchasing the vehicle, the Le Beaus did not know that
5 the Vehicle contains a Defect that causes power window failure, and that they would
6 not be able to safely drive the vehicle without risk of the power windows failing.
7 Had Kia disclosed the Defect on its website, through its dealership, in its warranty
8 manual, or elsewhere prior to them purchasing the Class Vehicle, the Le Beau
9 Plaintiffs would not have purchased the Vehicle, or would not have paid the purchase
10 price that they did. Plaintiffs relied upon Kia to provide the full picture of
11 information regarding their Vehicle, and relied upon the idea that Kia would not
12 withhold material information about safety defects in the Vehicle, including the
13 Defect. As a result, Plaintiffs received less than what they paid for their Vehicle and
14 did not receive the benefit of their bargain.

15 **Plaintiff David Griesemer**

16 29. Plaintiff David Griesemer is an adult individual who resides in and is a
17 citizen of Summerville, South Carolina. In January 2016, Plaintiff Griesemer
18 purchased a brand new 2016 Optima from Stokes Kia, an authorized Kia dealership
19 located in Goose Creek, South Carolina. Plaintiff uses the Class Vehicle for family
20 and household use, and he is the primary user of the Vehicle.

21 30. In or about September 2021, Plaintiff began experiencing the Defect in
22 his Optima. In a span of just over nine months—between on or about September 13,
23 2021 and June 29, 2022—all four windows (i.e., front and back driver and passenger
24 side windows) experienced the Defect due to window regulator failure.

25 31. Plaintiff presented his Vehicle for repair each time to Kia Country of
26 Charleston located in Charleston, South Carolina. The total cost to repair the four
27 windows was nearly \$2,000, and Plaintiff was forced to pay approximately a \$100

1 deductible for each window, forcing him to incur approximately \$400 out of pocket
2 for the repairs.

3 32. While Kia's dealership temporarily eliminated the Defect in part at
4 Plaintiff's cost, Kia has failed to permanently repair or otherwise correct the Defect
5 in the Vehicle in order to permit him to safely continue driving it without the risk of
6 the power windows failing again.

7 33. Plaintiff anticipates that he will soon experience the window regulator
8 Defect and resultant power window failure as he continues to use the Class Vehicle.

9 34. Plaintiff has sustained out of pocket damages, has lost time associated
10 with getting the Vehicle repaired, and lost use of his Vehicle during the time it was
11 being repaired, all as a result of the Defect.

12 35. Because of the Defect, and Kia's inability or refusal to permanently
13 remedy the issue, Plaintiff continues to be exposed to a safety risk associated with
14 window regulator failure in their Class Vehicle.

15 36. At the time of purchasing the Vehicle, Plaintiff did not know that the
16 Vehicle contains an unsafe Defect that causes power window failure, and that he
17 would not be able to safely drive the Vehicle without risk of the power windows
18 failing. Had Kia disclosed the Defect on its website, through its dealership, in its
19 warranty manual, or elsewhere prior to them purchasing his Class Vehicle, Plaintiff
20 would not have purchased the Vehicle, or would not have paid the purchase price
21 that he did. Plaintiff relied upon Kia that it was providing the full picture of
22 information regarding his Vehicle, and relied upon the idea that Kia would not
23 withhold material information about safety defects in the Vehicle, including the
24 Defect. As a result, Plaintiff received less than what he paid for his Vehicle and did
25 not receive the benefit of his bargain.

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1 **Defendant Kia America, Inc.**

2 37. Defendant Kia America, Inc. is a California corporation, with its
3 corporate headquarters located at 111 Peters Canyon Road, Irvine, California,
4 92606. Kia markets, sells, and leases the Class Vehicles throughout the United
5 States, including in this District. Kia is responsible for sales, marketing, service,
6 distribution, import, and export of Kia-branded products, including vehicles and
7 parts, in California, and in the United States. Kia is also the warrantor and distributor
8 of Kia vehicles, including the Vehicles, in California and throughout the United
9 States. Kia has thousands of authorized dealerships across the United States—which
10 are its agents—and controls the distribution of automobiles, parts, services, and
11 warranty repairs Kia vehicles throughout the United States, all of which are under
12 Kia’s control. Kia authorizes these distributors and dealerships to sell Kia vehicles,
13 parts, and accessories and to service and repair Kia vehicles using Kia parts. Kia
14 exerts control over its dealership-agents through the technical service bulletins
15 (TSBs) and other repair guidance it issues to its dealerships relating to problems
16 arising with Kia vehicles, including the Defect in the Vehicles, and instructing
17 dealerships how to perform repairs; Kia’s warranty directs Vehicle owners and
18 lessees to present their Vehicles to Authorized Kia Dealers for repairs and service;
19 and Kia requires authorized dealerships to submit detailed data to it regarding repairs
20 performed at dealerships.

21 38. Kia is a corporation organized and in existence under the laws of the
22 state of California and registered to do business in the State of California. Kia is
23 headquartered at 111 Peters Canyon Road Irvine, California, 92606.

24 39. Kia does substantial business in California, with a significant portion
25 of the sales and leases made in California. In fact, a majority of its work in sales,
26 marketing, distribution, import, export, and warranty of Kia-branded products,
27 including vehicles and parts, takes place in California.

40. California hosts a significant portion of Kia's U.S. operations, including sales and service offices and financial service offices, among others. Kia's research and design facilities are located in California.

41. In addition, the conduct that forms the basis for each and every class member's claims against Defendant emanated from Kia's headquarters in California and is consistent with directives of Defendant's personnel in California.

42. Kia's marketing and advertising personnel are located at its California headquarters, and the advertising and marketing schemes, as well as the Owner's Guides and Owner's Manuals describing the safety and performance of the Vehicles (which omitted to describe the Defect), were made and implemented from Kia's California headquarters.

43. Kia's California personnel implemented its deceptive advertising scheme and other materials and have refused to repair the Defect in Plaintiffs' Vehicles.

44. Defendant's personnel responsible for communicating with dealers regarding known problems with the defective Vehicles are also located at the California headquarters, and the decision to not inform authorized dealers of the Defect was made and implemented from Kia's California headquarters.

45. Defendant has significant contacts with the state of California, and the conduct at issue herein emanated from California.

SUBSTANTIVE ALLEGATIONS

46. This action is brought against Defendant on behalf of Plaintiffs and all persons who purchased or leased Kia's model year 2016-2017 Optima and 2017 Sportage vehicles. The models and model years of vehicles comprising the Class Vehicles are subject to revision based upon information learned through the discovery process.

1 47. Kia America, Inc. is the marketing and distribution arm of Kia Motors
 2 Corporation based in Seoul, Korea. Headquartered in Irvine, California, Kia touts
 3 itself as having “been the highest ranked mass market brand in initial quality for five
 4 consecutive years according to J.D. Power, and is recognized as one of the 100 Best
 5 Global Brands by Interbrand.”¹ Kia “offers a complete range of vehicles sold through
 6 a network of nearly 800 dealers in the U.S.”²

7 48. In a press release published on Kia’s website, www.kiamedia.com, Kia
 8 quotes its president Michael Cole as stating, “Kia is committed to building the safest
 9 vehicles possible” and that the six Top Safety Pick (TSP) ratings Kia recently
 10 received from the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IHS) reflect Kia’s
 11 “commitment and reaffirms Kia’s continued effort to strive for safety improvement
 12 and advancement in every model” it produces.³

13 49. Kia sells Class Vehicles to its authorized distributors and dealerships,
 14 which, in turn, sell or lease those vehicles to consumers. After these dealerships sell
 15 cars to consumers, including Plaintiffs and members of the classes, they purchase
 16 additional inventory from Kia to replace the Vehicles sold and leased, increasing
 17 Kia’s revenues. Thus, Plaintiffs’ and class members’ purchases of Vehicles accrue
 18 to the benefit of Kia by increasing its revenues.

19 ***Overview of the Kia Optima***

20 50. The Kia Optima is a mid-size sedan that was initially introduced in
 21 2000 as a 2001 model (first generation).

22
 23
 24 ¹ KIA MEDIA, <https://www.kiamedia.com/us/en/media/pressreleases/16009/kia-receives-six-top-safety-pick-ratings-from-insurance-institute-for-highway-safety> (last visited Aug. 18, 2022).

25
 26 ² *Id.*

27 ³ *Id.*

1 51. In 2016, the Optima entered its fourth generation, which according to
 2 Kia, “defie[d] the staid midsize sedan segment with its exquisite design, abundance
 3 of premium convenience features.”⁴ Kia quotes its vice president of product planning
 4 Orth Hedrick as stating, “[t]he all-new Optima encompasses everything the outgoing
 5 model did so well but does it even better. It has matured in all the right ways, from
 6 the European sport-sedan design to the premium materials to its improved ride and
 7 handling . . . The all-new Optima retains the signature personality of its predecessor,
 8 but we’ve literally improved everything, providing more space, better ergonomics,
 9 more technology and greater refinement.”⁵

10 52. In the press release, Kia’s vice president, Orth Hedrick states: “Kia is
 11 known for superior design, quality engineering and intuitive technology. Kia
 12 continues to rack up the recognition from the auto industry . . . This latest honor from
 13 Kelley Blue Book reconfirms the Optima and Sportage as outstanding offerings in
 14 their segments and acknowledges Kia’s world-class vehicle line-up.”⁶

15 ***Overview of the Kia Sportage***

16 53. The Kia Sportage is a compact SUV first built in 1995. Originally, it
 17 was a mini SUV developed with a Lotus engineering base platform, but the second
 18 generation Sportage has grown in size to become a compact crossover SUV.⁷

19 54. The fourth generation Sportage was introduced for model year 2017.
 20 According to Kia: “The all-new 2017 Sportage, the fourth generation of Kia Motors
 21 America’s longest-running nameplate, wraps a stunning and contemporary design

22 ⁴ KIA MEDIA, <https://www.kiamedia.com/us/en/models/optima/2016> (last visited
 23 Aug. 18, 2022).

24 ⁵ *Id.*

25 ⁶ KIA MEDIA, <https://www.kiamedia.com/us/en/media/pressreleases/12727/kia-optima-and-kia-sportage-ranked-top-10-most-awarded-vehicles-of-2017-by-kelley-blue-books-kbbcom> (last visited Aug. 18, 2022).

26 ⁷ AUTOPEDIA WIKI, https://autopedia.fandom.com/wiki/Kia_Sportage

1 around a structure that is both stiffer and more spacious than ever before. Advanced
 2 driver assistance technologies, significant suspension and steering improvements,
 3 and available intelligent AWD vastly improve the Sportage's driving dynamics
 4 while premium materials and world-class craftsmanship create a class-up experience
 5 in an otherwise utilitarian segment.”⁸ Kia’s vice president Orth Hedrick stated,
 6 “[i]nstead of bland utility, the Sportage combines distinctly European and sporty
 7 styling with thoughtful design and functionality, including innovative packaging,
 8 premium materials, a turbocharged engine and surprising features.”⁹

9 ***The Defective Power Window Systems in the Optima and Sportage***

10 55. The Class Vehicles are equipped with defective power window
 11 systems.¹⁰ Each Vehicle has a power window switch that controls the door’s
 12 window.¹¹

13 56. Due to a defect in materials and workmanship, the window regulator
 14 drum/gear are prone to separating and breaking, resulting in an inoperative window
 15 regulator and the malfunction of the power windows system. By nature, the Defect
 16 becomes increasingly severe over time.

17 57. Window regulator failure in the Vehicles presents a severe safety issue
 18 for a number of reasons. First, automobile windows can protect against occupant
 19 ejection during a crash, yet when the Defect manifests in the Vehicles, class
 20 members are often left with non-functioning windows that have fallen down into the

21
 22 ⁸ KIA MEDIA, <https://www.kiamedia.com/us/en/models/sportage/2017> (last
 23 visited Aug. 18, 2022).

24 ⁹ *Id.*

25 ¹⁰ KIA, *Kia Sportage: Description and Operation*,
 26 https://www.kispmanual.com/description_and_operation-1087.html (last visited
 27 Aug. 18, 2022).

28 ¹¹ KIA, https://www.ksportagegl.com/power_windows-110.htm.

1 car doors and cannot be “rolled up.” Second, side windows are critical to the proper
2 operation of side airbags. Third, being able to open a window, when needed, presents
3 an emergency egress in the event of an accident or when drivers and passengers are
4 otherwise unable to exit through vehicle doors, e.g., in the event of a crash that leaves
5 the doors inoperable. For class members who have experienced the Defect in a way
6 that prevents them from “rolling down” the windows in their Vehicles, they cannot
7 use the windows as egress in the event of an emergency where the car doors become
8 inoperable. Fourth, when a Vehicle is parked in certain climates, inoperable
9 windows can expose drivers and occupants to unsafe interior temperatures
10 (exceeding 110 degrees Fahrenheit) that can impair the safe operation of the Vehicle.
11 Finally, inoperable open windows increase the risk of theft.

12 58. Clearly, the Defect presents a safety concern, and though numerous
13 consumers have complained about it, Kia has failed to adequately address the Defect.

14 59. The internet is replete with complaints from Class Vehicle owners and
15 lessees who, like Plaintiffs, have experienced the unsafe Defect and resultant
16 malfunctioning power windows. Kia did not repair or otherwise correct the Defect
17 in the Vehicles in order to permit Plaintiffs or class members to safely continue
18 driving their Vehicles without risk of the window regulator being damaged or
19 routinely failing and, as a result of the automatic windows becoming non-
20 operational.

21 60. Entire message board threads are devoted to complaints and discussion
22 about the Defect. For example, on optimaforums.com, there is a discussion thread
23 entitled “Power windows not working on 2016 Kia Optima,” with numerous
24 complaints and discussions about the Defect.¹² A sampling of the discussion is below
25 (all sic):

26 ¹² OPTIMA FORUMS, *Power windows not working on 2016 Kia Optima,*
27



Jim9858

Registered

Joined Feb 14, 2022
1 Posts

#44 · Feb 14, 2022

I have 2016 Optima. Drivers window went out in Nov 2021. Motor was working but window would not go up or down. Due to Covid shortages had to buy last on from dealer and got hosed. When I took it apart to replace the regulator I found the drum gear that the motor interacts with was stripped out on the old regulator. I went ahead and replaced with new one and it works fine. Within a month the other three regulators went bad. Motor works But windows don't go up or down. I took to dealer as there is obviously a problem with the manufacture of the windows After speaking to Service manager I found out that it is a known problem with the drum gear in the regulators. While not issuing a recall, Kia did published a technical bulletin explaining the problem and detailing how to replace the drum gear. if your DIY replacing the regulator is really easy. Haven't tackled the drum gear replacement yet. Parts are limited supply and back ordered Currently holding windows up from inside with a suction cup on each window that you would use to lift tile or glass. bought at home depot while I figure out next step.



Holly Katelyn

Registered

Joined Nov 2, 2021
1 Posts

#43 · Nov 2, 2021

My back driver window stopped working in March, then my back passenger went less than a week later, got both of them fixed... fast forward to august, my front driver window went out, then lastly my front passenger window stopped working as well only a few short days later. I've had the parts ordered since august and supposedly they're still not in and it's now November. I find it strange that each of my windows stopped working within a week or less of each other. I think they should look into a recall

Ericglo

 Save Share

karmirkle

Registered

Joined Oct 18, 2021
2 Posts

#40 · Oct 18, 2021

I also have a 2016 Kia Optima and both of my back windows have gone out - I took it to Kia and unfortunaly my car was no longer under warranty - I did not have the money to fix them so they no longer work but one of my friends at work has a Kia Sportage and she has had to have all 4 of hers replaced under warranty and now she just told me today that one of them is out again. I honestly belive it is a warranty issue - Kia needs to persue the issue immediately.

 Save Share

Lynda

Registered

Joined Sep 9, 2021
2 Posts

#36 · Sep 9, 2021

I am frustrated as well. I have a 2016 Kia Optima. Within a month I had three windows that went bad. I don't understand how three windows can go bad all at the same time. I had the driver window repaired and it was around \$600 for one window. Both of my back windows have not been repaired yet. This is ridiculous. I am making a complaint directly to Kia regarding this issue. If anyone has any other suggestions I am open to them.

 Save Share

<https://www.optimaforums.com/threads/power-windows-not-working-on-2016-kia-optima.171741/> (last visited Aug. 18, 2022).



1
2
3
4
Gerryg
Registered
2016 Kia Optima
Joined Oct 28, 2017
8 Posts

#27 · Sep 4, 2020

⋮

2016 Optima LX I have had to replace all 4 window regulators over the last year and a half. the same issue on all 4 units the teeth disintegrated in the small plastic gear which the motor mounts into. As the second owner of this vehicle I was only able to get one replaced under warranty before I passed 60,000 miles.

 Save Share

5
6
7
8
PJW
Registered
Joined Mar 17, 2021
2 Posts

#33 · Sep 5, 2021

⋮

Let me set the record straight with these poorly designed Kia Window Regulators. No, it's not the master switch as each motor still works and makes the sound of it "wanting" to work. My wife has a 2016 Kia Optima LX (Florida) with 90K miles on it. In April, the rear passenger went out. Watched some videos, researched the method and for \$250, that door was fixed. It's not hard at all, get the proper tools and you can do it. Fast forward to August 20, 2021. The front passenger window fails. On Sept 3rd, 2021 the rear passenger goes out and then TODAY, the Driver side WINDOW REGULATOR goes dead. The motor still hums like its about to roll the window down, but nothin. Driver side window falls into the door panel, now I have to fish it out. The first one I replaced revealed wear in the plastic wheels . It's poorly and cheaply designed and any engineer that worked on this ought to be ashamed they put their name on this crappy design. It will cost us \$1,000 just in parts to fix all of the windows. My Ford F-250 never had stuff like this happen to its motorized windows. And it's a 2002 Ford F-250 with 218,000 miles on the meter.



13
14
15
16
Whitney
Registered
Joined Aug 27, 2020
14 Posts

 Discussion Starter · #1 · Aug 27, 2020 (Edited)

⋮

ORIGINAL: I have a 2016 Kia Optima with, as of now, roughly 58,000 miles on it and have had it for a little over three years. When the first window (rear passenger) stopped working, it was between Oct. 2019 and Nov. 2019. Luckily, the glass was up, but neither switches would allow it to go up and/or down. The motor did, however, make a noise as if it were trying to go up and/or down. At the time, I didn't have the money to comfortably spare in order to fix said window. I figured I'd save up and get it fixed in a few weeks. Then, as I'm getting enough saved to have the first window fixed, window number two (rear driver) gave out with the same issue. It would make a noise, but nothing. Fast forward to March 2020, COVID is getting big and we're in shut down, then out goes the third window (passenger side). I wasn't so lucky with this one because it was all the way down. Same as the first two, makes noise, just won't go up and/or down. A couple of weeks ago, my final working window called it quits. Has anyone else had the same experience and does it sound like there may be something faulty with wiring? To me it's rather odd that all gave out within less than a year. Should I chance taking it to a Kia dealership and paying out of pocket for all four to be fixed or try to file a complaint with NHTSA? (I know it isn't technically a safety issue, but an issue nonetheless.)

UPDATE: I took my car to my local Kia dealership to see if my car was covered under the 60K mile warranty, per someone's advice on here. (Thank you, by the way.) Seems that all four of my regulators have gone bad. The employee I spoke with verified that my car is covered under warranty still and that he hadn't seen anything happen like that before. After about 30 more minutes a different employee approached me telling me my car was ready to go. As she walked me out to the car she informed me that they've been seeing this issue a lot recently on optimas and sportages. She believes Kia needs to do a recall on the windows because there is definitely something faulty in there. Now, these two employees sit right next to each other in the same space. He told me he's not seen anything like this and she's saying it's been happening a lot lately. Needless to say, I'm not a huge fan of this dealership (big fat liars). Didn't leave there on a good note a year ago because of a lie, but at about 45 minutes away it's the closest to me. Just going to get my car fixed and washing my hands of that place. Anyway, thank you to all for your input! I really appreciate it!

1 61. Another discussion thread on optimaforums.com entitled “Power
2 windows” are similarly filled with numerous complaints and discussion about the
3 Defect¹³:



clockhart52

Registered

Joined Sep 26, 2021
3 Posts



KingFatty

Registered

2012 Black SX Prem.
& Tech.

Joined May 1, 2013
2,591 Posts

✓ Discussion Starter · #1 · Sep 26, 2021

I have a 2016 Kia Optima. My third window has went out in my Kia. I'm down to one working window with two taped up and the other one has fallen so I can't pull it up. When I tell you I am over Kia I mean it. My motor went out in 2020 and was replaced under warranty. My trunk Latch is broken and is taped up, which their is a recall for this but the Optimas are not covered. I'm a single mother and have never had as many problems with a car as I have had this one for it to be 5 years old. I had to put my car in the shop for it going into limp mode. This was covered due to recall but Kia offered no loaner car so I had to pay 1300 dollars for a rental to get me around for 21 days until they could look at my car due to the number of kia's they were working on. I will never purchase another Kia AGAIN and I Pray I can get into a safer car soon for me and my kids!

#9 · Oct 14, 2021

Is there a good way to diagnose window issues, determine whether it's a switch or something behind the door panel?

My situation is the rear window, driver's side, doesn't go up or down.

The difficulty is the symptoms changed over time, and at first it seemed to be a simple switch failure, but now it seems like something else. Can a window go bad like described below, or could it be that multiple switches failed and also the window failed? How would I figure out which parts are good or bad?

At first the window worked fine using the rear controls located at that window, and using the master switches at the driver's seat, I could roll up the window but not down.

I thought the problem was just with the master switch at the driver's seat not being able to roll down that rear window. And sure enough, over time, the master switch gradually lost the ability to roll up the window too, while the rear seat at the window worked fine. Then over time, the rear seat couldn't do anything, and now that rear window is just stuck in place, closed, and no switch can make it move. So maybe the problem is not a switch at all, and it's just been a strange failure, or maybe it's both the switches and the window motor being the problem?

Anyway, for windows, how do I figure out what went wrong and what parts are still good, like a general troubleshooting approach?

¹³ OPTIMA FORUMS, *Power Windows*, <https://www.optimaforums.com/threads/power-windows.173208/> (last visited Aug. 18, 2022).

62. Another site called carcomplaints.com¹⁴ contains numerous complaints about the Defect:

2016 KIA OPTIMA OWNER COMMENTS

(PAGE 2 OF 2)

12 Optima EX
Automatic transmission 74,000 miles MAR 25
2020

REAR DRIVER'S DOOR WINDOW WON'T GO UP OR DOWN - Very strange and odd at first, I never have passengers. I barely even roll down the back windows - probably 30 times the whole time having my car, as the original owner starting at 7 miles on the odometer. I can hear the motor in the window, at first thought it was the switch and then discovered it was the window regulator after a few searches. Suggested part price \$275 and that's without labor.

- **Howard K.**, Coral Springs, FL, US

11 Optima EX 2.4L 4L
Automatic transmission 87,000 miles JAN 30
2020

SO my drivers side window is the only window that works, ive never had a car where all but one window regulator goes out with in months of each other. i live in florida so my windows are usually always up considering the heat down here. no kids no pets. wtf kia?

- Jennifer L., Lakeland, FL, US

10 Optima LX 2.4L
Automatic transmission 75,500 miles MAR 17
2020

Window #1 of that has had the regular break. Again, you have to replace the entire panel to solve the issue of the window falling down.

- **Norma R.**, West Palm Beach, US

9 Optima LX 2.4L AUG 04
Automatic transmission 71,000 miles 2019

Ok, so this is the fourth of 4 window regulators that has failed in the last 7 months. Each window's regulator had to be replaced. I replaced the part myself and is easy to do. It cost 250, but the only thing broken was a small 3 inch cog which would have cost a few bucks if they sold it separately to the entire plastic panel it attaches too. Total waste of plastic and time and money.

- T.J., Pompano Beach, FL, US

#8 Optima LX 2.4L
Automatic transmission 70,000 miles JUL 10
2019

Ok, so this is the third of 4 window regulators that has failed. I replaced the part myself. It cost 250, but the only thing broken was a small 3 inch cog which would have cost a few bucks if they sold it separately to the entire plastic panel it attaches too. Total waste of plastic and time and money.

- T J., Pompano Beach, FL, US

#**7** Optima LX 2.4L
Automatic transmission 68,000 miles APR 10
2019

Ok, so this is the second of 4 window regulators that has failed. I replaced the part myself. It cost 250, but the only thing broken was a small 3 inch cog which would have cost a few bucks if they sold it separately to the entire plastic panel it attaches too. Total waste of plastic, time and money. Very poor quality parts

- T J., Pompano Beach, FL, US

¹⁴ CARCOMPLAINTS.COM, *2016 Kia Optima Window Regulator Failure*, https://m.carcomplaints.com/Kia/Optima/2016/windows_windshield/window_regulator_failure.shtml (last visited Aug. 18, 2022).

1

6

Optima LX 2.4L

Automatic transmission 65,000 miles

DEC 10
2018

2

This is the first of 4 window regulators that has failed. It failed just after my warranty was up and I replaced the part myself. It cost 250, but the only thing broken was a small 3 inch cog which would have cost a few bucks if they sold it separately to the entire plastic panel it attaches too. Total waste of plastic and time and money.

3

- T J., Pompano Beach, FL, US

4

5

Optima

Automatic transmission 33,687 miles

MAY 25
2019

5

3 of my power windows are now not working. The rear passenger side wouldn't roll up about 5 months ago, then a few weeks ago the rear drivers side, and today the passenger side window. Each door and the driver door make the sound of trying to work up and down but the windows will not move. I had to hand pull the windows up and use suction cups or door stoppers until I can take it in. In watching some YouTube videos on the subject it looks like more than I can handle. These windows were in no way abused by kids playing around with them or any type of misuse, I am single, no kids and live in Florida where I barely roll my windows down and prefer using the A/C. I suppose it will be a matter of weeks before the drivers side door does the same. Is anyone else experiencing this?

6

Update from Jul 25, 2019

7 My car is going to the dealership tomorrow for 4 new regulators. The lady said you should of brought it in sooner, my
8 reply was "yeah that would of been 4 separate appointments and 4 separate pains in my...." Anyway I am grateful the
9 warranty covers it, but who is to say this won't just happen again.

10

- Sherry P., Saint Petersburg, FL, US

11

4

Optima

Automatic transmission 33,500 miles

OCT 01
2018

12

I'm now on window #3 of the mechanism not working. The dealer has replaced them but I've never heard of or experienced 3 window mechanisms going on 1 vehicle. I asked them to check the last one and supposedly they did.

13

- Samantha K., Cape Coral, US

14

3

Optima

Automatic transmission 33,000 miles

JUL 01
2018

15

This is now the second window mechanism that has stopped working on my vehicle.

16

- Samantha K., Cape Coral, US

17

2

Optima

Automatic transmission 32,000 miles

MAY 01
2018

18

Its very frustrating that the window mechanism stops working

19

- Samantha K., Cape Coral, US

20

1

Optima

Automatic transmission 34,000 miles

APR 01
2019

21

It is now all 4 window mechanisms have gone on my vehicle. I'm super pissed because the Dealer supposedly checked the last window mechanism to verify that it was working correctly.

22

- Samantha K., Cape Coral, US

23

24 63. The following are some examples of complaints from owners and
lessees of the Vehicles concerning the Defect available through NHTSA's website¹⁵:

25

¹⁵ See, e.g., NHTSA, 2016 Kia Optima Safety Ratings,

26

27

28

June 27, 2022 NHTSA ID NUMBER: 11471121



Components: VISIBILITY

NHTSA ID Number: 11471121

Incident Date June 1, 2022

Consumer Location MONTGOMERY, AL

Vehicle Identification Number 5XXGT4L37GG****

Summary of Complaint

CRASH	No	All 4 windows in my car has dropped down and won't go back up. Have to put a car cover over it to keep it from raining in it or to keep anything else out of it. I rarely rolled my windows down in this car every since I have purchased it and all of a sudden all the windows just drops down. This is a defect on the company part and not mine and i want to find out why I never received a recall letter to this effect for I have seen and read that there were cars recalled for the same problem that I am having with mine.
FIRE	No	
INJURIES	0	
DEATHS	0	

January 3, 2022 NHTSA ID NUMBER: 11446056



Components: VISIBILITY

NHTSA ID Number: 11446056

Incident Date December 13, 2021

Consumer Location FORT VALLEY, GA

Vehicle Identification Number 5XXGT4L16GG****

Summary of Complaint

CRASH	No	The contact's grandmother owns a 2016 Kia Optima. The contact stated that while driving at 25 MPH, the rear driver's side window inadvertently fell. There were no warning lights illuminated. The contact veered to the side of the road and pulled up the window manually. She then inserted a piece of paper in the upper right corner of the window to keep it in place. The contact stated that the failure reoccurred while driving. The front and rear driver's side windows and the rear passenger's side window also inadvertently fell. The contact inserted pieces of paper in the upper right corner of each window. The vehicle was taken to the dealer but was not diagnosed. The dealer informed the contact that the vehicle would be repaired at her expense. The manufacturer was notified of the failure but did not provide any assistance. The vehicle was not repaired. The failure mileage was approximately 83,500.
FIRE	No	
INJURIES	0	
DEATHS	0	

<https://www.safercar.gov/vehiclesafety/defects/2016/KIA/OPTIMA>;

NHTSA, 2017 Kia Sportage Safety Ratings,

<https://www.safercar.gov/vehiclesafety/defects/2017/KIA/SPORTAGE/SUV/FWD> (last visited Aug. 18, 2022).

1 September 20, 2021 NHTSA ID NUMBER: 11433589
 2 **Components: VISIBILITY** (–)

3 NHTSA ID Number: 11433589

4 **Incident Date** September 17, 2021

5 **Consumer Location** NASHVILLE, TN

6 **Vehicle Identification Number** 5XXGT4L35GG***

7 **Summary of Complaint**

CRASH	No	Without heavy use (I don't often have passengers in the back seat), driver side rear window regulator/motor failed in May, causing the rear window to fall into the door while driving. This is a major safety issue as anything can go through the car - rain or debris. It was roughly \$600. This weekend, the same thing happened to another window out of the blue while having my dog in the back who nearly jumped out after it fell into the door. Now, the part is backordered and the Kia dealership has said it could be months before the window can be repaired and they offer no solution on how to keep the window up in the meantime. This is an expensive safety issue and should not be failing in multiple windows. My car only has 65k miles on it.
FIRE	No	
INJURIES	0	
DEATHS	0	

12 August 28, 2020 NHTSA ID NUMBER: 11351833
 13 **Components: ELECTRICAL SYSTEM, VISIBILITY** (–)

14 NHTSA ID Number: 11351833

15 **Incident Date** June 13, 2019

16 **Consumer Location** MIRAMAR, FL

17 **Vehicle Identification Number** 5XXGU4L3XGG***

18 **Summary of Complaint**

CRASH	No	TL* THE CONTACT OWNS A 2016 KIA OPTIMA. THE CONTACT STATED WHILE DRIVING 60 MPH, THE DRIVER'S AND
FIRE	No	PASSENGER'S SIDE REAR WINDOWS STARTED TO ROLL DOWN INDEPENDENTLY. THE CONTACT WAS UNABLE TO ROLL THE
INJURIES	0	WINDOWS BACK UP. THE VEHICLE WAS TAKEN TO LOCAL
DEATHS	0	DEALER RICK CASE KIA LOCATED 14500 W. SUNRISE BLVD, SUNRISE, FL 33323, (954) 715-7580, WHERE IT WAS DIAGNOSED WITH NEEDING THE WINDOW REGULATORS TO BE REPLACED. THE VEHICLE HAD BEEN REPAIRED BUT CONTINUED TO EXPERIENCE THE FAILURE. THE MANUFACTURER HAD NOT BEEN INFORMED OF FAILURE. THE FAILURE MILEAGE WAS 37,222.

1 February 19, 2021 NHTSA ID NUMBER: 11396979
2

3 **Components: VISIBILITY/WIPER** (−)

4 NHTSA ID Number: 11396979

5 Incident Date February 19, 2021

6 Consumer Location OVIEDO, FL

7 Vehicle Identification Number 5XXGT4L33GG****

8 **Summary of Complaint**

9 CRASH No THE RIGHT REAR WINDOW SUDDENLY ROLLED DOWN WHILE
10 FIRE No DRIVING. CHECKS REVEAL THAT THE MOTOR THAT
11 INJURIES 0 CONTROLS THE UPWARD/DOWNWARD MOVEMENT WAS
12 DEATHS 0 INOPERABLE. I TOOK IT TO THE DEALER AND THEY CONFIRM
13 THE MOTOR NEEDED CHANGING. I EXPLAINED TO THEM THAT
14 I AM THE ONLY USER OF THE CAR AND THE BACK SEAT HAS
15 NEVER BEEN USED, THEY STILL CHARGED \$650 TO REPLACE
16 THE MOTOR. SIX MONTHS LATER THE SAME THING
17 HAPPENED TO THE REAR LEFT WINDOW. I AM NOT IN A
18 POSITION TO PAY ANOTHER \$650, SO I TRIED TO PLACE PAPER
19 IN THE SPACE TO HOLD THE GLASS IN PLACE. NOW TODAY
20 THE RIGHT FRONT GLASS JUST ROLLED DOWN WHILE
21 DRIVING. I SPOKE WITH A KIA DRIVER I SAW IN THE PARKING
22 LOT AT WALMART AND HE STATED THAT HE HAD SIMILAR
23 PROBLEMS.

24 December 9, 2019 NHTSA ID NUMBER: 11287902
25

26 **Components: ELECTRICAL SYSTEM, VISIBILITY/WIPER** (−)

27 NHTSA ID Number: 11287902

28 Incident Date August 13, 2019

29 Consumer Location BOYNTON BEACH, FL

30 Vehicle Identification Number 5XXGT4L37GG****

31 **Summary of Complaint**

32 CRASH No TL* THE CONTACT OWNS A 2016 KIA OPTIMA. THE CONTACT
33 FIRE No STATED THAT ALL FOUR WINDOW REGULATORS FAILED. THE
34 INJURIES 0 CONTACT WAS UNABLE TO GET THE WINDOWS TO MOVE
35 DEATHS 0 UPWARD AND CLOSE. THE CONTACT TOOK THE VEHICLE TO
36 KIA DELRAY (LOCATED AT 2255 S FEDERAL HWY, DELRAY
37 BEACH, FL 33483, 561-637-5500) WHO STATED THAT THE
38 WINDOW REGULATORS FAILED FOR ALL FOUR WINDOWS AND
39 NEEDED TO BE REPLACED. THE VEHICLE HAD NOT BEEN
40 REPAIRED. THE MANUFACTURER WAS MADE AWARE OF THE
41 FAILURE AND PROVIDED AUTHORIZATION TO REPAIR THE
42 REAR WINDOWS. THE MANUFACTURER WAS CONTACTED AND
43 PROVIDED CASE NUMBER: 13306734. THE APPROXIMATE
44 FAILURE MILEAGE WAS 72,000.

1 July 22, 2022 NHTSA ID NUMBER: 11475325
2



Components: UNKNOWN OR OTHER

3 **NHTSA ID Number:** 11475325

4 **Incident Date** July 22, 2020

5 **Consumer Location** PUNTA GORDA, FL

6 **Vehicle Identification Number** KNDPN3ACXH7***

7 **Summary of Complaint**

8 CRASH No On 7/22/2020 I brought my Sportage to Fuccillo Associates of
9 FIRE No Florida Inc. 202 Tamiami Trail, Port Charlotte Fl. 33953. At that
10 INJURIES 0 time they took it upon themselves to change a window regulator
11 DEATHS 0 drum gear on the driver's side. This was covered under warranty,
12 even though the warranty was expired already. Part number
13 82473-D3000FFF. Then on 11/16/2021 the second regulator
14 drum gear failed in the rear passenger behind drivers seat. The
15 window fell and could not be closed. This was repaired at my
16 expense at \$458.00 at 75,000 miles. Now as of July 1st the third
17 window regulator drum gear failed on the passenger rear side.
18 Now the window is inoperable and falls down. I alerted Kia to
19 this issue and they attempted to change me a diagnostic fee
20 and a \$450 replacement fee in a part they know is defective and
21 has been a problem for them all across the country. Look on
22 your own site and you will see many many complaints of
23 windows that just fell and the window regulator will not bring the
24 window back up. This window drum gear is defective and should
25 have been part of a national recall on all 4 windows as they were
26 probably manufactured out of material that would not stand up
27 to normal wear and tear.

1 64. Kia has issued at least two TSBs related to the Defect under the
 2 following TSB numbers:

- 3 • BOD300¹⁶
 4 • SA418

5 65. Despite issuing the foregoing TSBs—a tacit recognition of the Defect
 6 in and of itself—Kia has not issued a recall relating to the Defect.

7 ***Kia Knew the Power Window Systems in the Vehicles are Defective***

8 66. At the same time Kia was selling the Class Vehicles to Plaintiffs and
 9 the car-buying public, Kia was well aware of the problems with Class Vehicles'
 10 power window systems, both from the internal validation and testing that Kia
 11 performed and from its past experience and expertise.

12 67. Kia requires that each component is tested for durability before mass
 13 production. Kia employs several teams of engineers whose work is focused on
 14 testing the durability of the power window systems, including testing on the
 15 completed vehicle, bench testing, and simulation testing, exterior performance test
 16 engineers, electrical validation test technicians, and reliability test engineers
 17 responsible for guaranteeing full vehicle and component performance for durability
 18 requirements.

19 68. As part of Kia's pre-sale testing, it performs open and close tests on the
 20 windows in its vehicles over thousands of cycles. These open/close tests replicate
 21 the actual use of the windows in the Class Vehicles and would have revealed to Kia
 22 that the Vehicles contain defective window regulators that, when they fail, cause the
 23 windows in the Vehicles to function intermittently or become inoperable.

24 69. Federal regulations require automobile manufacturers to build vehicles
 25 that comply with the Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards (49 C.F.R. § 571). The

26 ¹⁶ NHTSA, *Kia Technical Service Bulletin* (March 2021),
 27 <https://static.nhtsa.gov/odi/tsbs/2021/MC-10189544-0001.pdf>.

1 existence of these standards necessarily requires Kia to extensively test its vehicles
2 prior to selling them. During the course of these and other quality validation testing
3 conducted by its engineers prior to their sale, Kia became aware of the defective
4 power window systems.

5 70. Kia was also aware of the Defect based upon the raft of negative
6 consumer responses and reactions about the Class Vehicles, which in addition to its
7 pre-sale testing supports an inference of knowledge—yet it continued to sell and
8 lease the Vehicles with the Defect.

9 71. Kia closely reviews Kia and Kia-related automobile message boards,
10 consumer websites, complaints on the NHTSA website, and other websites and
11 sources relating to its vehicles and defects, complaints, or other issues pertaining to
12 the Kia's vehicles, including the Class Vehicles. It specifically pays considerable
13 attention to electrical and technological issues in its automobiles, as properly
14 functioning electrical systems are necessary to ensure that critical safety features are
15 operable.

16 72. Kia specifically monitors customers' complaints made to NHTSA.
17 Federal law requires automakers like Kia to be in close contact with NHTSA
18 regarding potential automobile defects, including imposing a legal requirement
19 (backed by criminal penalties) compelling the confidential disclosure of defects and
20 related data by automakers to NHTSA, including field reports, customer complaints,
21 and warranty data. *See TREAD Act, Pub. L. No. 106-414, 114 Stat.1800 (2000).*

22 73. Automakers have a legal obligation to identify and report emerging
23 safety-related defects to NHTSA under the Early Warning Report requirements. *Id.*
24 Similarly, automakers monitor NHTSA databases for consumer complaints
25 regarding their automobiles as part of its ongoing obligation to identify potential
26 defects in their vehicles, including safety-related defects. *Id.* Thus, Kia knew or
27 should have known of the complaints about the Defect logged by NHTSA Office of

1 Defect Investigation (ODI), and the content, consistency, and large number of those
2 complaints alerted, or should have alerted, Kia to the Defect.

3 74. Kia had knowledge, or should have known, about the Defect from all
4 of these sources, yet it issued a series of TSBs that did nothing to remedy the Defect;
5 continued to sell Class Vehicles with a well-known safety issue; declined to issue a
6 recall despite the prevalence of the issue; and has sat on its hands as Kia dealerships
7 routinely charge class members large sums of money when they present their
8 Vehicles for repair of the Defect after it inevitably manifests.

9 75. Kia had knowledge that its omissions regarding the safety and
10 performance of the Vehicle were misleading, yet it continued to make the same
11 omissions regarding the Vehicles to Plaintiffs and members of the proposed classes,
12 despite the fact that Kia knew that the Vehicles were defective.

13 76. To date, Kia has failed to remedy the Defect and continued to sell the
14 Class Vehicles despite its knowledge of the Defect.

15 77. To date, Kia has not demonstrated that it is capable of providing an
16 adequate repair for the Defect, and Plaintiffs and class members do not know
17 whether Kia is capable of providing a repair for the Defect. As such, and without the
18 benefit of discovery, it is for all practical purposes impossible to know at this time
19 whether a remedy at law or in equity will provide the appropriate full relief for
20 Plaintiffs and members of the class. As a result, Plaintiffs, at this stage of the
21 litigation, seek both restitution and a remedy at law, where the claims so permit.
22 Further, Plaintiffs seek an injunction enjoining Kia and its agents, servants, and
23 employees, and all persons acting under, in concert with, or for it from selling or
24 leasing Class Vehicles without notice that they are subject to the Defect, which
25 cannot be repaired, and that this remains the situation.

1 **THE LIMITED REMEDIES' FAILURE OF THEIR ESSENTIAL PURPOSE**

2 78. Given the inherently defective nature of the Vehicles and their
3 propensity to malfunction (or continue to malfunction) and require repair, and given
4 Kia's inability to repair the Defect and its non-disclosure and affirmative
5 concealment of these facts, enforcement of the unilaterally imposed durational and
6 damage limits of the express warranty would so oppress and surprise the Plaintiffs
7 and class members as to render these durational and damage limits unconscionable
8 and hence unenforceable.

9 79. Under the applicable warranty, Plaintiffs and class members are entitled
10 to the repair and replacement of defective parts. However, because the Defect
11 persists after any repairs and replacements authorized by Defendant are made, and
12 because Defendant knew that these actions were insufficient to cure the Defect,
13 Plaintiffs and class members are left without any remedy under a warranty to correct
14 the Defect. Indeed, Defendant has had numerous opportunities to correct the Defect
15 but has failed to do so.

16 80. When class members present their Vehicles for a Defect-related repair,
17 Kia is unable to remedy the Defect. Continued presentment of Vehicles by Plaintiffs
18 and class members to Kia in hopes of a repair or remedy would thus be futile. Simply
19 put, Defendant's express warranty fails its essential purpose, so that class members
20 are without the benefit of their primary bargain—reliable and operational Vehicles
21 that are safe and free of material defects.

22 81. The warranty service provided at Kia's dealerships and Kia's other
23 agents' facilities failed to fix the problems with the Vehicles. As a result of
24 Defendant's failure to properly or adequately repair the Defect, Plaintiffs suffered
25 direct, and reasonably foreseeable, incidental damages and did not have the benefit
26 of a safe and reliable Vehicle.

1 **TOLLING OF THE STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS AND ESTOPPEL**

2 82. Any applicable statute of limitations has been tolled by Defendant's
3 knowing and active concealment of the Defect and misrepresentations and omissions
4 alleged herein. Through no fault or lack of diligence, Plaintiffs and members of the
5 class were deceived regarding the Class Vehicles and could not reasonably discover
6 the Defect or Defendant's deception with respect to the Defect.

7 83. Plaintiffs and class members did not discover and did not know of any
8 facts that would have caused a reasonable person to suspect that the Defendant was
9 concealing a defect and/or the Class Vehicles contained the Defect and the
10 corresponding safety risk. As alleged herein, the existence of the Defect was material
11 to Plaintiffs and members of the Class at all relevant times. Within the time period
12 of any applicable statutes of limitations, Plaintiffs and members of the Class could
13 not have discovered—through the exercise of reasonable diligence—the existence
14 of the Defect or that the Defendant was concealing the Defect.

15 84. At all times, Defendant is and was under a continuous duty to disclose
16 to Plaintiffs and class members the true standard, quality, and grade of the Class
17 Vehicles and to disclose the Defect and corresponding safety risk due to their
18 exclusive and superior knowledge of the existence and extent of the Defect in Class
19 Vehicles.

20 85. Defendant knowingly, actively, and affirmatively concealed the facts
21 alleged herein, and the Defect. Plaintiffs and class members reasonably relied on
22 Defendant's knowing, active, and affirmative concealment.

23 86. For these reasons, all applicable statutes of limitation have been tolled
24 based on the discovery rule and Defendant's fraudulent concealment, and Defendant
25 is estopped from relying on any statutes of limitations.

CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS

87. Plaintiffs, individually and as a class action on behalf of similarly situated purchasers and lessees of the Vehicles pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23(b)(2) and (3), seek to represent the following class:

Nationwide Class

All owners and lessees of Kia's model year 2016 or 2017 Optima or 2017 Sportage automobiles purchased or leased in the United States and its territories

88. Plaintiffs also bring this action in the alternative on behalf of the following state classes:

Louisiana Class

All owners and lessees of Kia's model year 2016 or 2017 Optima or 2017 Sportage automobiles purchased or leased in the state of Louisiana.

South Carolina Class

All owners and lessees of Kia's model year 2016 or 2017 Optima or 2017 Sportage automobiles purchased or leased in the state of South Carolina.

89. Excluded from these classes are Defendant, as well as Defendant's affiliates, employees, officers and directors, and the Judge to whom this case is assigned. Plaintiffs reserve the right to amend the definition of the classes if discovery and/or further investigation reveal that the classes should be expanded or otherwise modified.

90. Certification of Plaintiffs' claims for class-wide treatment is appropriate because Plaintiffs can prove the elements of their claims on a class-wide basis using the same evidence as would be used to prove those elements in individual actions alleging the same claims.

91. **Numerosity:** The members of the Class are so numerous that joinder of all class members in a single proceeding would be impracticable. While the exact number and identities of individual members of the class is unknown at this time,

1 such information being in the sole possession of Kia and obtainable by Plaintiffs
2 only through the discovery process, Plaintiffs believe, and on that basis allege that
3 over a hundred thousand Vehicles have been sold and leased in the United States.

4 **92. Existence/Predominance of Common Questions of Fact and Law:**
5 Common questions of law and fact exist as to all class members and predominate
6 over questions affecting only individual class members. Such common questions of
7 law or fact include, *inter alia*:

- 8 a. whether Kia engaged in the conduct alleged herein;
- 9 b. whether Kia omitted and misrepresented material facts to
10 purchasers and lessees of Class Vehicles;
- 11 c. whether Kia's omissions and misrepresentations regarding the
12 Class Vehicles were likely to mislead a reasonable consumer;
- 13 d. whether Kia breached warranties with Plaintiffs and the other
14 class members—including the implied warranty of
15 merchantability—when it produced, distributed, and sold the
16 Class Vehicles;
- 17 e. whether Plaintiffs' and other class members' Vehicles were
18 worth less than as represented as a result of the Defect and
19 conduct alleged herein;
- 20 f. whether Plaintiffs and the other class members have been
21 damaged and, if so, the extent of such damages; and
- 22 g. whether Plaintiff and the other class members are entitled to
23 equitable relief, including but not limited to, restitution and
24 injunctive relief.

25 93. Kia engaged in a common course of conduct giving rise to the legal
26 rights sought to be enforced by Plaintiffs individually and on behalf of the other class
27 members. Similar or identical statutory and common law violations, business

1 practices, and injuries are involved. Individual questions, if any, are substantially
2 overcome, in both quality and quantity, by the numerous common questions that
3 dominate this action.

4 94. **Typicality:** Plaintiffs' claims are typical of the claims of the other class
5 members because, among other things, Plaintiffs and the other class members were
6 injured through the substantially uniform misconduct described above. As with
7 Plaintiffs, class members also purchased or leased a Class Vehicle containing the
8 Defect. Plaintiffs are advancing the same claims and legal theories on behalf of
9 themselves and all other class members, and no defense is available to Kia that is
10 unique to Plaintiffs. The same events giving rise to Plaintiffs' claims for relief are
11 identical to those giving rise to the claims of all class members. Plaintiffs and all
12 class members sustained monetary and economic injuries including, but not limited
13 to, ascertainable losses arising out of Kia's wrongful conduct in selling/leasing and
14 failing to remedy the Class Vehicles.

15 95. **Adequacy:** Plaintiffs are adequate class representatives because they
16 will fairly represent the interests of the class. Plaintiffs have retained counsel with
17 substantial experience in prosecuting consumer class actions, including consumer
18 fraud and automobile defect class action cases. Plaintiffs and their counsel are
19 committed to prosecuting this action vigorously on behalf of the class they seek to
20 represent and have the resources to do so. Plaintiffs nor their counsel have any
21 interest adverse or antagonistic to those of the class.

22 96. **Superiority:** A class action is superior to any other available means for
23 the fair and efficient adjudication of this controversy, and no unusual difficulties are
24 likely to be encountered in the management of this class action. The damages or
25 other detriment suffered by Plaintiffs and the other class members are relatively
26 small compared to the burden and expense that would be required to individually
27 litigate their claims against Kia, so it would be impracticable for class members to

1 individually seek redress for Kia's wrongful conduct. Even if class members could
2 afford individual litigation, the court system should not be required to undertake
3 such an unnecessary burden. Individualized litigation would also create a potential
4 for inconsistent or contradictory judgments and increase the delay and expense to all
5 parties and the court system. By contrast, the class action device presents no
6 significant management difficulties, if any, and provides the benefits of single
7 adjudication, economy of scale, and comprehensive supervision by a single court.

8 97. Defendant has acted and refused to act on grounds generally applicable
9 to the Classes, making appropriate final injunctive relief with respect to the Classes
10 as a whole.

11 98. Upon information and belief, class members can be readily identified
12 and notified based upon, *inter alia*, the records (including databases, e-mails,
13 dealership records and files, etc.) Kia maintains regarding its sales and leases of
14 Class Vehicles.

15 99. Unless the classes are certified, Defendant will improperly retain
16 monies that they received from Plaintiffs and members of the classes as a result of
17 its conduct. Unless Defendant is required to change its conduct, it will continue to
18 commit the violations and acts alleged herein and the members of the class and the
19 general public will continue to be misled and harmed.

20 **CAUSES OF ACTION**

21 **COUNT I**

22 **Breach of the Implied Warranty of Merchantability**
(On Behalf of the Nationwide Class or, in the alternative, the State Classes)

23 100. Plaintiffs reallege and incorporate by reference the preceding
24 paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.

25 101. Plaintiffs Michael and Phyllis Le Beau, and David Griesemer bring this
26 claim on behalf of the Nationwide Class or, in the alternative, under the laws of their
27 respective home states, under Louisiana and South Carolina law.

1 102. Defendant is and was at all relevant times a merchant with respect to
2 the Vehicles, and manufactured, distributed, warranted and sold the Vehicles.

3 103. A warranty that the Vehicles were in merchantable condition and fit for
4 the ordinary purposes for which they were sold is implied by law.

5 104. Plaintiffs and the other class members purchased the Vehicles
6 manufactured and sold by Defendant in consumer transactions.

7 105. The Vehicles, when sold and at all times thereafter, were not in
8 merchantable condition and the automatic windows were not in merchantable
9 condition and were not fit for the ordinary purpose for which cars are used. The
10 Vehicles left Defendant's possession and control with defective power window
11 systems that rendered them at all times thereafter unmerchantable, unfit for ordinary
12 use, unsafe, and a threat to safety.

13 106. Defendant knew before the time of sale to Plaintiffs and the other class
14 members, or earlier, that the Vehicles were produced with defective power window
15 systems that was unfit for ordinary use, that rendered the Vehicles unfit for their
16 ordinary purposes, and that posed a serious safety threat to drivers, passengers, and
17 everyone else sharing the road with the Vehicles. This knowledge was based on
18 Defendant's own industry standard internal validation of its vehicles prior to
19 launching new models, internal testing, knowledge about and familiarity with the
20 power window systems included in the Vehicles, history of similar problems with
21 similar automatic windows malfunctioning or failing in prior models, and
22 complaints by consumers and third parties.

23 107. The existence and ubiquity of the Defect is illustrated by the numerous
24 publicized consumer complaints, disputes, and failed remedial measures nationwide.

25 108. Despite Plaintiffs' and the other class members' normal, ordinary, and
26 intended uses, maintenance, and upkeep, the power window systems of the Vehicles
27 experienced and continue to experience the Defect and premature failure.

109. The power window systems in the Vehicles and the Vehicles themselves are, and at all times and were, not of fair or average quality, and would not pass without objection.

110. All conditions precedent have occurred or been performed.

111. Plaintiffs and class members have used their Vehicles in a manner consistent with the Vehicles' intended use, and have performed each and every duty required under Kia's warranty, including presentment, except as may have been excused or prevented by the conduct of Defendant or by operation of law in light of Defendant's unconscionable conduct described throughout this Complaint.

112. Defendant received timely notice regarding the problems at issue in this litigation and, notwithstanding such notice, has failed and refused to offer an effective remedy.

113. In addition, upon information and belief, Defendant received numerous complaints, notices of the need for repair and resulting safety issues, and requests for warranty repairs and coverage relating to the Defect from other members of the class.

114. In its capacity as a supplier and/or warrantor, and by the conduct described herein, any attempt by Defendant to disclaim or otherwise limit express warranties in a manner that would exclude or limit coverage for the Defect that was present at the time of sale and/or lease, which Defendant knew about prior to offering the Vehicles for sale and/or lease, and which Defendant did not disclose and did not remedy prior to (or after) sale and/or lease, is unconscionable, and Defendant should be estopped from pursuing such defenses.

115. Further, any such effort by Defendant to disclaim or otherwise limit liability for the Defect is null and void because Kia and its authorized agents (the dealers) have wrongfully, uniformly, and repeatedly refused and failed to properly repair or replace the powertrain.

1 116. Specifically, Defendant's warranty disclaimers, exclusions, and
2 limitations, to the extent that they may be argued to apply, were, at the time of sale,
3 and continue to be, unconscionable and unenforceable to disclaim liability for a
4 known, latent defect. Defendant knew when it first made these warranties and their
5 limitations that the defect existed, and the warranties might expire before a
6 reasonable consumer would notice or observe the defect. Defendant also failed to
7 take necessary actions to adequately disclose or cure the Defect after the existence
8 of the Defect came to the public's attention and sat on its reasonable opportunity to
9 cure or remedy the Defect, its breaches of warranty, and consumers' losses. Under
10 these circumstances, it would be futile to enforce any informal resolution procedures
11 or give Defendant any more time to cure the Defect or cure its breaches of warranty.

12 117. As such, Defendant should be estopped from disclaiming liability for
13 its actions.

14 118. Privity of contract is not required for consumer implied warranty claims
15 under the relevant laws. However, Plaintiffs and the other class members had
16 sufficient direct dealings with Defendant and its agents (dealers) to establish privity
17 of contract.

18 119. Kia's authorized dealers are agents of Kia, and there is a factually
19 plausible agency relationship between Kia and its dealerships. This agency is
20 factually supported by at least the following: 1) Kia issued a series of TSBs to its
21 dealerships relating to the window regulator at issue in this litigation; 2) Kia's
22 warranty directs Class Vehicle owners to present their vehicles to Kia authorized
23 dealerships for repairs; and 3) Kia requires dealerships to submit detailed data to it
24 regarding repairs performed at dealerships. These considerations demonstrate the
25 agency relationship between Kia and its dealerships, with whom Plaintiffs interacted
26 and transacted as alleged herein.

1 120. Privity is also not required in this case because Plaintiffs and the other
2 class members are intended third-party beneficiaries of contracts between Defendant
3 and its dealers (i.e., its agents); specifically, they are the intended beneficiaries of
4 Defendant's implied warranties. The dealers were not intended to be the ultimate
5 consumers of the Vehicles; the warranty agreements were designed for, and intended
6 to benefit, only the ultimate consumers—such as Plaintiffs and the other class
7 members. Privity is also not required because Plaintiffs' and the other class
8 members' Vehicles are inherently dangerous due to the aforementioned defects and
9 nonconformities.

10 121. Plaintiffs and the other class members suffered and will suffer
11 diminution in the value of their Vehicles, out-of-pocket losses related to repairing,
12 maintaining, and servicing their defective Vehicles, costs associated with arranging
13 and obtaining alternative means of transportation, and other incidental and
14 consequential damages recoverable under the law.

COUNT II

Fraud/Fraudulent Omission

(On Behalf of the Nationwide Class or, in the alternative, the State Classes)

17 122. Plaintiffs reallege and incorporate by reference the preceding
18 paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.

19 123. Plaintiffs bring this claim on behalf of the Nationwide Class or, in the
20 alternative, the state classes under the laws of Plaintiffs' respective home states,
21 under Louisiana and South Carolina law.

22 124. Defendant actively, intentionally, and knowingly concealed,
23 suppressed, and/or omitted material facts including the existence of the Defect and
24 the standard, quality, or grade of the Vehicles and the fact that the Vehicles contain
25 a Defect and corresponding safety risk, with the intent that Plaintiffs and class rely

1 on Defendant's omissions. As a direct result of the Defendant's fraudulent conduct,
2 as alleged herein, Plaintiffs and members of the class have suffered actual damages.

3 125. Defendant knew at the time of sale or lease and thereafter that the
4 Vehicles contained the Defect, omitted material information about the safety of the
5 Vehicles, and actively concealed the Defect and never intended to adequately repair
6 the Defect during the warranty periods. To date, Defendant has not provided
7 Plaintiffs and members of the class with an adequate repair or remedy for the Defect.

8 126. Defendant possessed superior and exclusive knowledge regarding the
9 Defect, and therefore had a duty to disclose any information relating to the safety
10 and functionality of key safety features in the Vehicles.

11 127. The Defect is material to Plaintiffs and the members of the class
12 because Plaintiffs and the members of the class had a reasonable expectation that the
13 Vehicles would not contain a Defect that prevents them from properly using their
14 automatic windows and that exposes them and others to a safety risk. No reasonable
15 consumer expects a vehicle to contain a concealed Defect in materials or
16 workmanship, such as the Defect as well as its associated safety risk.

17 128. Plaintiffs and members of the class would not have purchased or leased
18 the Vehicles but for Defendant's omissions and concealment of material facts
19 regarding the nature and quality of the Vehicles and the existence of the Defect and
20 corresponding safety risk, or would have paid less for the Vehicles.

21 129. Kia knew its concealment and suppression of the Defect was false and
22 misleading and knew the effect of concealing those material facts. Kia knew its
23 misstatements, concealment, and suppression of the Defect would sell more Vehicles
24 and would discourage Plaintiffs and the members of the Class from seeking
25 replacement or repair of the Defect during the applicable warranty periods. Further,
26 Defendant intended to induce Plaintiffs and class members into purchasing or

1 leasing the Vehicles and to discourage them from seeking replacement or repair of
2 the Defect in order to decrease costs and increase profits.

3 130. Defendant acted with malice, oppression and fraud.

4 131. Plaintiffs and the members of the Class reasonably relied upon
5 Defendant's knowing misrepresentations, concealment and omissions. As a direct
6 and proximate result of Defendant's misrepresentations, omissions and active
7 concealment of material facts regarding the Defect and the associated safety risk,
8 Plaintiffs and the members of the Class have suffered actual damages in an amount
9 to be determined at trial.

COUNT III

Unjust Enrichment

(On Behalf of the Nationwide Class, or in the alternative, the State Classes)

12 132. Plaintiffs reallege and incorporate by reference the preceding
paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.

14 133. Plaintiffs bring this claim on behalf of the Nationwide Class or, in the
15 alternative, the state classes under the laws of Plaintiffs' respective home states,
16 under Louisiana and South Carolina law.

17 134. This claim is pleaded in the alternative to the other claims herein, and
18 seeks restitution of ill-gotten gains.

19 135. As a direct and proximate result of Kia's omissions concerning and its
20 failure to disclose the known Defect, Kia has profited through the sale and lease of
21 the Vehicles and subsequently by profiting on the purchase of replacement parts and
22 charging Plaintiffs and other Class Members for expensive repairs to their Vehicles
23 when the window regulators inevitably fail. Although these Vehicles are purchased
24 through Kia's agents, the money from the Vehicle sales flows directly back to Kia.

136. As a result of its wrongful acts, concealments, and omissions of the
Defect in its Vehicles, as set forth above, Kia charged higher price for the Vehicles

1 than the Vehicles' true value. Plaintiffs and members of the class paid that higher
2 price for their Vehicles to Kia's authorized distributors and dealers, which are in
3 Kia's control.

4 137. Additionally, as a direct and proximate result of Kia's failure to disclose
5 known Defect in the Vehicles, Plaintiffs and class members have Vehicles that will
6 require high-cost repairs that can and therefore have conferred an unjust substantial
7 benefit upon Kia.

8 138. Kia has been unjustly enriched due to the known Defect in the Vehicles
9 through the receipt and use of money paid for the defective vehicles, sale of
10 replacement parts, and performance of window regulator repairs, that added to Kia's
11 profits when said money should have remained with Plaintiffs and the class
12 members.

13 139. As a result of Kia's unjust enrichment, Plaintiffs and the class members
14 have suffered damages.

15 140. Equity and good conscience militate against allowing Kia to retain its
16 ill-gotten gains, and requires disgorgement and restitution of the same.

17 **COUNT IV**

18 **Violations of Louisiana Unfair Trade Practices and Consumer Protection Law**
La. Rev. Stat. Ann. §§ 51:1401, *et seq.*

19 **(On Behalf of Plaintiffs Michael and Phyllis Le Beau and the Louisiana Class)**

20 141. Plaintiffs reallege and incorporate by reference the preceding
21 paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.

22 142. Plaintiffs Michael and Phyllis Le Beau bring this claim on behalf of the
23 Louisiana Class under Louisiana law.

24 143. The Louisiana Unfair Trade Practices and Consumer Protection Law
25 ("Louisiana CPL") makes unlawful "unfair or deceptive acts or practices in the
26 conduct of any trade or commerce." La. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 51:1405(A). Unfair acts

1 are those that offend established public policy, while deceptive acts are practices that
2 amount to fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation.

3 144. Kia, Plaintiffs, and Louisiana Class members are “persons” within the
4 meaning of the La. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 51:1402(8).

5 145. Kia engaged in “trade” or “commerce” within the meaning of La. Rev.
6 Stat. Ann. § 51:1402(10).

7 146. Plaintiffs and other Class members are consumers who purchased or
8 leased a Vehicle for end use and not for resale.

9 147. Kia’s conduct, as described above, in misrepresenting the Vehicles’
10 features, while omitting the facts that Vehicles contained defective power window
11 systems, constitutes an unfair and deceptive practice and was likely to mislead a
12 reasonable consumer.

13 148. A reasonable consumer would consider the quality of the power
14 window systems in a Vehicle, and defective nature of the automatic windows, to be
15 important when making a decision whether to purchase or lease a Vehicle. The
16 disclosure of the defective power window systems would have influenced
17 prospective buyers not to enter into transactions.

18 149. Kia knew before the time of sale to Plaintiffs and the other class
19 members, or earlier, that Vehicles were produced with defective power window
20 systems that posed a serious safety threat to drivers and passengers. Through
21 knowledge of manufacture and production of the power window systems, internal
22 product testing, consumer complaints, and past experience, Defendant learned of the
23 Defect. The existence and ubiquity of the Defect is illustrated by the numerous
24 publicized consumer complaints and disputes. Defendant’s issuance of a series of
25 TSBs directed to Vehicles’ window regulator shows actual knowledge.

26 150. Kia’s conduct in refusing to perform the necessary repairs to Plaintiffs’
27 and Class members’ Vehicles constituted unfair conduct.

1 151. Kia's practices offend public policy, are immoral, unethical,
2 oppressive, and unscrupulous, cause substantial injury to consumers, and pose a risk
3 to public safety.

4 152. As a direct and proximate result of Kia's unfair and deceptive conduct,
5 as alleged herein, Plaintiffs and the other Class members have suffered injury-in-
6 fact, including the following:

- 7 a. Plaintiffs and the other Class members, in purchasing or
8 leasing the Vehicles, received cars worth less than as
9 represented in that they paid for a car with a power window
10 system free of defects, but did not receive that which they paid
11 for;
- 12 b. Plaintiffs and the other Class members suffered diminution in
13 value of the Vehicles due to the existence of the Defect in their
14 Vehicles; and
- 15 c. Plaintiffs and the other Class members were faced with the
16 choice or repairing their Vehicles at substantial cost and
17 inconvenience or being without their vehicles at substantial
18 cost and inconvenience.

19 153. As a result of Defendant's unfair and deceptive conduct, Plaintiffs and
20 the other Class members have suffered actual damages, including power window
21 systems, diminution in value of the Vehicles, out-of-pocket losses related to
22 repairing, maintaining, and servicing their defective Vehicles, costs associated with
23 arranging and obtaining alternative means of transportation, and other incidental and
24 consequential damages recoverable under the law.

25 154. Had Plaintiffs and the other Class members been aware of the omitted
26 and misrepresented facts, i.e., that the Vehicles they purchased and leased were
27 defective and would cost them several hundreds of dollars when the power window

1 systems failed, Plaintiffs and the other Class members would not have purchased
2 and leased the Vehicles or would have paid significantly less for them than they
3 actually paid.

4 155. Plaintiffs and the Louisiana Class members seek all monetary relief
5 allowed by law, including actual damages; treble damages for Kia's knowing
6 violations of the Louisiana CPL; declaratory relief; attorneys' fees; and any other
7 relief that is just and proper.

8 **COUNT V**

9 **Violations of South Carolina Unfair Trade Practices Act**
S.C. Code Ann. §§ 39-5-10, *et seq.*

10 **(On Behalf of Plaintiff David Griesemer and the South Carolina Class)**

11 156. Plaintiffs reallege and incorporate by reference the preceding
12 paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.

13 157. South Carolina's Unfair Trade Practices Act ("SC UTPA") prohibits
14 "unfair or deceptive acts or practices in the conduct of any trade or commerce." S.C.
15 Code Ann. § 39-5-20.

16 158. Kia is a "person," as defined by S.C. Code Ann. § 39-5-10(a).

17 159. Kia advertised, offered, or sold goods or services in South Carolina and
18 engaged in trade or commerce directly or indirectly affecting the people of South
19 Carolina, as defined by S.C. Code Ann. § 39-5-10(b).

20 160. Kia's acts and practices had, and continue to have, the tendency or
21 capacity to deceive.

22 161. Kia's representations and omissions were material because they were
23 likely to deceive reasonable consumers about the quality of the power window
24 systems in a Vehicle, and defective nature of the automatic windows.

25 162. A reasonable consumer would consider the quality of the power
26 window systems in a Vehicle, and defective nature of the automatic windows to be
27 important when making a decision whether to purchase or lease a Vehicle. The

1 disclosure of the defective power window systems would have influenced
2 prospective buyers not to enter into transactions.

3 163. Kia intended to mislead Plaintiffs and South Carolina Class members
4 and induce them to rely on its misrepresentations and omissions.

5 164. Plaintiff and South Carolina Subclass members seek all monetary and
6 non-monetary relief allowed by law, including damages for their economic losses;
7 treble damages; punitive damages; injunctive relief; and reasonable attorneys' fees
8 and costs.

9 **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

10 WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs, on behalf of themselves and members of the
11 proposed classes, pray for judgment as follows:

- 12 a) Certification of the classes under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23;
13 b) Appointment of Plaintiffs as representatives of classes and their counsel
14 as class counsel;
15 c) Compensatory and other damages for economic and non-economic
16 damages;
17 d) An award of restitution and/or disgorgement;
18 e) An injunction requiring Defendant to cease and desist from engaging
19 in the alleged wrongful conduct and to engage in a corrective
20 advertising campaign;
21 f) Statutory pre-judgment and post-judgment interest on any amounts;
22 g) Payment of reasonable attorneys' fees and recoverable litigation
23 expenses as may be allowable under applicable law; and
24 h) Such other relief as the Court may deem just and proper.

25 **JURY DEMAND**

26 Plaintiffs demand a trial by jury on all causes of action so triable.
27

1 Dated: August 18, 2022

2
3 Respectfully submitted,

4 By: /s/ Robert R. Ahdoot

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